February 1, 2025

Boy catching a Goose

Karl Bitter, an Austrian-American sculptor, created a remarkable bronze sculpture titled "Boy Stealing Geese" in 1895. This piece showcases Bitter's exceptional skill in capturing dynamic movement and emotion. The sculpture depicts a lively scene where a boy is hoisting a goose, embodying a sense of mischief and playfulness. Bitter's work is deeply rooted in the tradition of sculptural storytelling, drawing inspiration from Hellenistic sculptures like "Boy Struggling with a Goose." His interpretation, however, is infused with a more animated and ambitious spirit, as seen in the boy's triumphant pose and the goose's flapping wings.

The sculpture was so esteemed that only two casts were made; the original was commissioned by George W. Vanderbilt for the Biltmore Estate, and the second was displayed at Bitter's own residence. Bitter's sculptures, particularly those involving geese, are believed to hold personal significance for the artist, who reportedly had a pet goose named Fifi. This anecdote adds a layer of intimacy to his works, suggesting that Bitter's artistic expressions were not only influenced by historical and cultural narratives but also by his personal experiences and relationships.